

INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

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NO.136

OCTOBER 1966

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Next Meeting

Saturday 29th October

Holloway Institute, Hornsey Road N.7  
(nearest station Finsbury Park)

7.0 to 9.30 p.m.

Committee 6.30 p.m.

I have indeed to ask the forbearance of members on two points.

I value the letters which members are kind enough to write to me, and I wish to give service to enquirers. But, I cannot keep pace with the correspondence, and with frequent absences on business, I am often in arrears with replies. recently I wrote more than ten letters a night each evening I was at home, and still I could not get to the bottom of the pile, which even includes letters asking for answers to previous letters.

Secondly, I apologise for an error over the venue of the September meeting. This should have been at Conway Hall, and I announced it as being at Holloway. We were fortunately able to find alternative accommodation within a hundred yards, and those who turned up enjoyed a very good meeting. For this lapse I plead a Shetlands holiday, and the rush of work which preceded it.

There will be apologetic footnotes in my annual report for 1966, I fear.

F.E.BUTLER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION BY THE SECRETARY FRANK E. BUTLER, 60 MAYFIELD CRESCENT LONDON N.9. ENGLAND

REPORT OF THE I.C.A. MEETING HELD ON 24th SEPTEMBER 1966

Through an oversight the hall at the Holloway Institute was not booked for Saturday, but the Rev. Robert Hood very kindly lent us his Church Hall, and the twelve members who came to the meeting certainly had a very good time, with many concerted items plus the usual solos:

The concerted items were:

"Rakoczy March" now chosen as the test piece for the 1967 Festival.

Ballet music No. 2 from "Rosamunde"

Gavotte Celebre in F.major

Andante from "Orione"

Four Waltzes by Schubert.

Frank produced an arrangement of Scottish airs which he made in 1930, and called on Vena McDougall and John Hutcherson to play it with him. Later we also had "A Penny Serenade" which he had arranged in 1939 and wanted to play again. We liked its baritone part full of runs, which Vena managed so capably.

Our surprise item was by Vena and Olive Linsell as first and Mr. Hutcherson on baritone playing "Scholl's Andante".

We enjoyed our usual band of soloists -

Mr. Crook playing "Pompadour"

Mr. Hutcherson "You are my Heart's delight" (most delightful)

Bill Link - with popular medleys on his Anglo

Mr. Watts (our new Committee man)  
Impromptu by Gurlitt  
Air by Bach

F.E.Butler played the intermediate test piece  
"An old Refrain" by Fritz Kreisler.

For a second surprise item Mrs. Fordham and Mr.Hutcherson played "Londonderry Air" and "Smiling Through", quite unrehearsed.

A letter was read by Mr. Harvey from Mr. Enokson of U.S.A. asking for tapes, and Mr. Harvey said he would try and record specially at the next meeting.

Also Mrs. Fordham passed round photos of the Jackson Jones Band. Mr. Harvey immediately recognized the brother of the late Len Jones, and was able to tell us much about the band and the family.

As a finale all members played The Clown's Dance. In all a very good evening in spite of the false start, and I know we would all wish to thank the Vicar for coming so willingly to our aid.

The Committee Meeting was held on the pavement outside Holloway Institute, and provoked curious stares from passers by.

ARTHUR MUSY

The I.C.A. regrets to announce the death of Arthur Musy on 26th September. He was an early member of the I.C.A, and one of the few Anglo players. He attended meetings regularly until the last few years, and occasionally played, always choosing selections of old music hall tunes.

His early life was spent in the district of Finsbury, and he had a rich store of anecdotes of local conditions, and a vast memory of the Edwardian music halls, which he loved. He leaves a sister, to whom our condolences have been expressed.

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NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Eileen Jones sends details of a wonderful tour of Egypt and Morocco. She writes a splendid description of the Nile, the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Perhaps she will attend the next meeting in a yashmak.

W.E.King has moved to The Chymes, Highlands Avenue, Uckfield, Sussex, where his concertina may in due course compete with the cuckoo (On first hearing the concertina in Spring!)

Julian Pilling of 126 Railway Street, Nelson, Lancs plays a 39 key Lachenal Anglo (beautifully restored by H. Crabb) for Morris Dancing. We welcome him as a new member.

W. Duncan of Bristol, reading that entries for the 1967 Festival may be restricted, has sent his in advance. He also wants tea and the services of the accompanist. We applaud his enthusiasm.

Olive Linsell's new address:

1 Long Crofts  
Honey Lane Estate,  
Waltham Abbey,  
Essex.

Sid Andrew of Herne Bay says every Newsletter revives memories of happy meetings and fine playing. At 72 he finds little time to play his 56 Duet. He would welcome members passing through this pleasant seaside resort.

Vi Fordham of Leigh-on-Sea purchased the test pieces, from a local shop, and found herself talking to the daughter of the late Jackson Jones, a professional, and principal of a concertina band. She brought a photograph of the band to the October meeting where Jim Harvey explained that Jackson was the brother of our Len Jones whose loss we still mourn.

Edith Wheeler sends suggestions for the next week-end course in a friendly letter. We wish her success in the new course of training she is taking, for the fashionable redeployment.

E. Charlesworth of Sale (like your Secretary) looks forward to retirement and the opportunity to get more playing. We wish him fulfilment in the proper time, and then many years of it.

### THE I.C.A. AT HASTINGS

The Secretary and Treasurer were invited to the 1966 Conference of the British Federation of Music Festivals, which took place in Hastings over the weekend of 8th October. They were able to attend only the Saturday, but were present at the A.G.M, and subsequent sessions that day.

John Holgate of the Guildhall School of Music, gave an amusing address which put forward his suggestions as an adjudicator, and included many sly and not-so-sly allusions to festival shortcomings.

Frank Butler, drawing partly on business experience, and partly on I.C.A, practice, spoke on publicity, and was well received. His suggestions provoked a lively discussion, and concertinas were mentioned I.C.A, members may be assured.

C.R.L. Avenell, the President of the Music Publishers' Association faced some quick-fire criticism with aplomb, and was able to refer some of the questions to other publishers who were present.

In the evening, the Mayor of Hastings entertained the delegates to a reception and cocktail party, at which an Alderman, aided and abetted by the Hastings Director of entertainments, pressed the I.C.A, to hold its next week-end course in Hastings, and asked if it could conclude with a public concertina concert. (Hitchin or Hastings, another query for members).

The Conference Dinner followed, Leonard Seymour and Eric Longhurst, Chairman and secretary of the London Area Council giving kindly welcome to the I.C.A, delegates. Entertaining speeches were given by the Mayor of Hastings (a metronome is a small passenger on the Paris Underground), Sir Knowles Edge, John Churchill (Director of the B.F.M.F. Summer School) the Principal of Guildhall School of Music, and John Holgate.

Delegates badges bore their names and the names of their festival. I.C.A, took some explaining, and both Frank and Doris Butler had often to explain.

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### CONCERTINAS AT CARNEGIE HALL

Carnegie Recital Hall is the premier auditorium for serious music making in the U.S.A. Here on 26th September Allan Atlas, a 23 year old student of musicology at New York University gave a recital on his 48 key English Concertina. Allan Atlas already has his B.A.degree of Hunter College, and his Master's Degree of New York, and that a musician of such ability should cultivate the playing of the concertina is a wonderful tribute to the qualities of this neglected instrument.

His programme included works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Bach and Paganini, proving the contention that the violin works of the great masters are ideal as concertina studies. Modernists are represented by Bloch (1930?) and Charles Schwartz (1966), while the .specifically concertina music of Regondi was also included.

Allan Atlas is a student of Boris Matusewitch.

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CONCERTINA FOR SALE 56 key Lachenal Edeophone Duet, plated ends, recently overhauled, and tuned to 522. Offers considered.  
E.J.Collings, Rainham Close, Park Bottom, Redruth, Cornwall.